AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings and versions thereof.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transforming a plant by introducing a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a protein ~~wherein the nucleic acid comprises a polyadenylation signal sequence and a GT rich sequence,~~ which comprises

I ~~1)~~ ~~identifying a polyadenylation signal sequence and a GT rich sequence in the heterologous nucleic acid wherein~~ providing the heterologous nucleic acid wherein the nucleic acid comprises a modified nucleic acid sequence of a ferric-chelate reductase FRE1 from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, wherein the sequence is modified by (A) and (B) without inactivating the protein encoded by the nucleic acid sequence for eliminating a region of a factor relating to the polyadenylation addition of the mRNA of the plant from the heterologous nucleic acid, wherein (A) and (B) comprise:

(A) modifying GT rich regions comprising 8 or more consecutive bases of G or T into another base sequence not relating to polyadenylation addition, and

(B) modifying sequences ~~the polyadenylation signal sequence is~~ selected from the group consisting of ATTTA, NATAAA, ANTAAA, AANAAA, AATNAA, AATANA, and AATAAN of which N is A, G, C or T into another base sequence not relating to polyadenylation addition ~~and the GT rich sequence is 8 or more consecutive G and/or T nucleotides~~,

~~2) modifying the polyadenylation signal sequence and the GT rich sequence without inactivating the protein encoded by the heterologous nucleic acid,~~

II ~~3)~~ introducing the modified heterologous nucleic acid into the plant, and

III [[4]]) expressing the modified heterologous nucleic acid in the plant ~~in the transformed plant wherein the heterologous nucleic acid comprises a modified polyadenylation signal sequence and a modified GT rich sequence~~.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyadenylation signal sequence is located downstream from the a GT rich sequence.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the modification of the polyadenylation signal sequence and the GT rich sequence is performed based on a codon usage of the plant to be transformed.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the modification of the nucleic acid ~~polyadenylation~~ sequence is performed so as not to have an ATTTA sequence.

9-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the plant is ~~germineae~~ gramineae.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the plant is tobacco.

15. (Currently amended) A transformed plant which can be produced by the method according to[[-]]claim 1.

16. (Previously presented) A seed produced by the plant according to claim 15, wherein said seed comprises the heterologous nucleic acid.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyadenylation signal sequence and the GT rich sequence are modified without altering the amino acid sequence of the encoded protein.

18. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a nucleic acid encoding a ferric-chelate reductase FRE1 from yeast encodes an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.